



February 9, 2016

Hilda L. Solis, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, First District

500 West Temple Street, Room 856

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email to FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov and EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV

SUBJECT: Support for Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps EPR Ordinance

Dear Board Chair Solis:

On behalf of Marin Sanitary Service (MSS), I am writing to express my support for creating a county wide stewardship program for the safe and convenient disposal of unwanted medicines and sharps to protect our families and our environment.

MSS, has been collecting sharps generated by Marin residents for over 10 years at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. During this time, we frequently have issues with residents trying to dispose of their sharps in packages or containers that are unsafe such as paper or plastic bags, cardboard boxes and plastic containers that are not puncture resistant. We have also found needles inside battery containers collected at fire stations making it unsafe for our workers.

The inappropriate handling of sharps and medications is an issue that we take seriously at MSS and for this reason we are strong supporters of an ordinance in L.A. County for unwanted medicines and needles.

When sharps are improperly thrown away, the public and workers alike are at risk of injury. If sharps are placed in garbage cans or recycling bins, or when they are flushed down the toilet, workers are at risk of needlesticks and bloodborne diseases. Illegally disposed sharps cost local governments scarce taxpayer dollars when workers get injured, or when entire trash sorting operations are shut down to retrieve the needles.

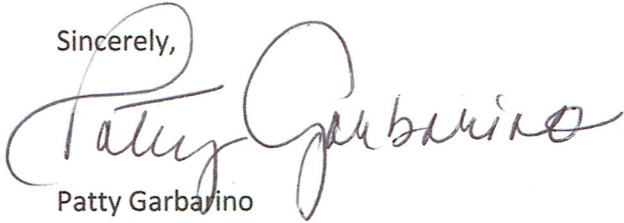
Right now, far too many used needles wind up in the wrong place because people don't know what to do with them. Consumers are often unaware that used sharps are required by law to be stored, transported and disposed of in a certified sharps waste container, and that sharps are not allowed to be thrown away in home trash or recycling bins. Used sharps are required to be taken to collection locations that will take them to facilities that process medical waste.

It's time to ensure that all communities in California have safe and convenient take-back locations for pharmaceuticals and sharps. To me, it just makes sense to have the manufacturers of the

medicines and sharps provide a stewardship program for their products, just like they already do in other countries like Canada and Mexico.

I support L.A. County ordinance and I ask the Board of Supervisors to pass it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Patty Garbarino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patty" and last name "Garbarino" clearly distinguishable.

Patty Garbarino
President
Marin Sanitary Service